

Attorney Docket No.: 915-007.125
Application No.. 10/516,887

In the Figures:

Please add new Figure 2 as set forth in the "New Sheet" attached hereto.

REMARKS

In response to the final Official Action of December 11, 2007, a new figure (Figure 2) is enclosed based upon the original description in the application as filed in response to the drawing section of the final Action. Amendment has been made to the specification insofar as identifying the reference numerals contained in this new Figure 2. No new matter is added since the description in the original application discusses the specific elements shown in Figure 2, as well as their interrelationships.

Furthermore, claims 1, 9-12, 17-19, and 27-30 have been amended in a manner which is believed to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. No new matter is added.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for not showing a processor, processing component and data connection. A new Figure 2 is presented based upon the original application as filed with reference numerals added to the original application as filed corresponding to the components shown in Figure 2.

It is respectfully submitted that a person of ordinary skill in the art would understand the connection of the components previously identified in the application as filed as shown in the block diagram set forth in Figure 2. As a result, Figure 2 does not contain new matter nor does the addition of reference numerals to the specification identifying the elements shown in Figure 2. Furthermore, with this Figure 2, the specific objection to the drawings has been overcome.

Thus, the mobile phone 31 is an exemplary electronic device while connection 35 is an exemplary data connection. The phone engine 35 is an exemplary processing component for connection to the contact sensitive means 36 via data connection 35. The micro-controller 34 is an exemplary processing component for providing signals to adjust the decoration. The phone engine in Figure 2 is disclosed in paragraph [0033] of the application as filed, while the mobile phone is disclosed in paragraph [0026] of the present application. The micro-controller 34 is disclosed in paragraphs [0019] and

[0027] of the present application, while the data connection is disclosed in paragraph [0033] of the present application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

At section 4, claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as anticipated in view of US patent 6,259,045, Imai. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the feature of claim 9 emphasizing that the decoration is adjustable by a processing component. Support for this amendment is found in the application as originally filed, including paragraphs [0021], [0022], and [0027].

Similar amendment has been made to claims 17 and 27. The discussion concerning amended claim 1 will therefore be made in reference to the rejection of previously presented claim 9.

Independent amended claim 1 is directed to a cover for an electronic device which comprises the following features:

- A. A decoration which is visible to a user when the cover is connected to an electronic device.
 - A1. The decoration is adjustable by a processing component.
- B. A contact sensitive component arranged such that it generates an electrical signal when a part of the decoration associated to the contact sensitive component is touched.
- C. A connection component configured to electrically connect the contact sensitive component to a processing component.

US Patent 6,259,045

Imai discloses a keybutton-equipped device comprising a board with sensitive elements at predetermined positions. The device also comprises a case in which the board is mounted and a keypad having a predetermined number of keybuttons (Imai, column 1, lines 45-56).

On the operation side of the board, there are provided a predetermined number of electrodes at the positions corresponding to the holes in the case and the protrusions

of the keypad (Imai, column 3, lines 9-12). An illuminant such as a light emitting diode (LED) may be placed adjacent to the electrode of the board (Imai, column 4, lines 51-54).

As claim 1 makes clear, all of the recited elements are comprised in the cover. In Imai, on the other hand, the relevant elements referred to by the Office are, for example, elements of the board 40 (see Figure 2). The case member 20 in Imai is understood to constitute the cover as recited in claim 1 of the present application. The board 40, on the other hand, is stated to be positioned between case members 20 and 30 and is thus clearly a separate element (Imai, Figure 2 and column 2, lines 62-64). Consequently, board 40 shown in Imai is not a part of the case members 20 and 30 and thus not part of the cover as recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, the elements referred to by the Office in reference to claim 1 are not disclosed as being part of the cover (case member 20) as shown in Imai.

Moreover, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate feature A1; namely, that the decoration is adjustable by a processing component. Such a processing component is not disclosed in Imai. The Office asserts that the subject matter of previously submitted claim 9 which incorporates this feature of the present invention, is anticipated by Imai. However, Imai does not refer to a processing component adjusting a decoration of the disclosed case member 20. A decoration is characterized by its visual appearance and there is no hint in Imai of adjusting anything that may be construed as a decoration.

Although Imai discloses the possibility of positioning an LED adjacent to a keybutton for illumination purposes (Imai, column 4, lines 23-26), the existence of an LED does not disclose control or adjustment by a processing component as required by amended claim 1.

In fact, the LED may be continuously connected to a current limited supply voltage or may be mechanically switched by the electrode of the keybutton adjacent to which it is placed. Thus, the feature recited in claim 1 of a decoration adjustable by a processing component is also believed to be not anticipated by Imai.

Furthermore, this feature of claim 1 is believed to be not suggested by Imai since adjustments of the decoration makes the device for which the cover is used more user-

friendly. The electronic device for which a cover according to the present invention may be used, comprise a wide variety of functionalities; for example, compressed audio playback and mobile games. Thus, the key buttons may be used for game control when a game is played, while the same buttons may have a different functionality when choosing an audio track for playback. Adjusting the decoration accordingly makes it easier for the user to associate the current functionality to the key buttons. There is no suggestion in Imai of realizing this advantageous feature of the present invention.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 1, as amended, is neither anticipated or suggested by Imai.

Independent electronic device claim 12 and independent cover claim 30 have been amended in a manner similar to claim 1 and therefore each of these claims is also believed to be neither anticipated nor suggested by Imai.

Since each of the independent claims of the present application is believed to be allowable over Imai, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-11 and 13-29 are further not anticipated or suggested by Imai at least in view of such dependency.

Furthermore, the subject matter of amended claims 8 and 9 is believed to be further not anticipated or suggested by Imai.

More particularly, the Office contends that the subject matter of claim 8 is anticipated by Imai. However, there is no disclosure in Imai of any processing component whatsoever and much less of a processing component forming a part of the cover. Integrating a processing component, such as an MP3 player, in the cover allows, for example, adding new features to an electronic device simply by exchanging the cover. Thus, dependent claim 8 is believed to be further not anticipated nor suggested by Imai.

With respect to amended claim 9, the Office previously stated that the feature of a decoration adjustable by a processing component is anticipated by Imai. However, as noted above, this feature is not disclosed by Imai. In fact, there is no indication whatsoever of their being any way to electronically adjust the part of the decoration associated to the contact sensitive component of Imai; namely, the keybuttons 12. The

keybuttons in Imai are described strictly in mechanical terms. The LED is only disclosed to be adjacent to the electrode.

Thus, claim 9, as amended, which recites that the decoration associated to said contact sensitive component is adjustable by a processing component, is believed to be not anticipated by Imai.

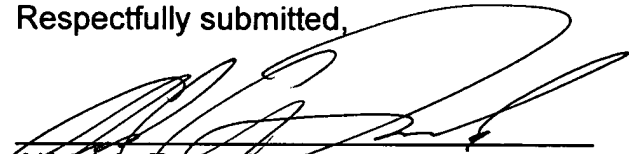
Furthermore, Imai does not suggest this feature of claim 9. Specifically adjusting the actual touch sensitive parts of the cover creates new use situations for the cover and the corresponding electronic device. As outlined in paragraph [0022] of the present application, this thereby enables the electronic device to be used, such as for an electric drum, a piano keyboard, or even a teaching keyboard indicating the key or keys to be played. In this respect as well, the feature of claim 9 is believed to be distinguished over the disclosure of Imai.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Dated: March 11, 2008

WARE, FRESSOLA, VAN DER
SLUYS & ADOLPHSON LLP
Building Five, Bradford Green
755 Main Street, P.O. Box 224
Monroe, CT 06468
Telephone: (203) 261-1234
Facsimile: (203) 261-5676
USPTO Customer No. 004955

Respectfully submitted,



Alfred A. Fressola
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 27,550